ANNO REGNI GULIELMI ET MARIÆ,

REGIS ET REGINÆ

Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,

PRIMO.

On the Sixteenth Day of *December*, *Anno Dom.* 1689. In the First year of Their Majesties Reign, this ACT Passed the Royal Assent.

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IN THE

FIRST YEAR

OF

KING WILLIAM

AND

QUEEN MARY.

An Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and Settling the Succeſſion of the Crown.

WHEREAS the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons Aſſembled at *Weſtminſter*, Lawfully, Fully, and Freely Repreſenting all the Eſtates of the People of this Realm, did upon the Thirteenth day of *February*, in the Year of our Lord One Thouſand Six Hundred

Eighty Eight, Preſent unto Their Majeſties, then called and known by the Names and Style of *William* and *Mary*, Prince and Princeſs of *Orange*, being preſent in their proper Perſons, a certain Declaration in Writing, made by the ſaid Lords and Commons in the words following: *Viz.*

WHereas the Late King *James* the Second, by the Aſſiſtance of divers Evil Councellors, Judges and Miniſters Employed by him, did endeavour to Subvert and Extirpate the Proteſtant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom;

By Aſſuming and Exerciſing a Power of Diſpenſing with, and Suſpending of Laws, and the Execution of Laws, without Conſent of Parliament.

By Committing and Proſecuting divers Worthy Prelates, for humbly Petitioning to be *Excuſed* from Concurring to the ſaid Aſſumed Power.

By Iſſuing, and Cauſing to be Executed a Commiſſion under the Great Seal, for Erecting a Court called, *The Court of Commiſſioners for Eccleſiaſtical Cauſes.*

By Levying Money for, and to the Uſe of the Crown by Pretence of Prerogative, for other Time, and in other Manner then the was ſame Granted by Parliament.

By

By Raiſing and Keeping a Standing Army within this Kingdom in time of Peace, without Conſent of Parliament, and Quartering Souldiers contrary to Law.

By Cauſing good Subjects, being Proteſtants, to be diſarmed at the ſame time, when Papiſts were both Armed and Employed, contrary to Law.

By Violating the Freedom of Election of Members to ſerve in Parliament.

By Proſecutions in the Court of Kings Bench, for Matters and Cauſes cognizable only in Parliament; and by divers other Arbitrary and Illegal Courſes.

And whereas of late years Partial, Corrupt, and Unqualified Perſons, have been Returned and Served on Juries in Trials, and particularly divers Jurors in Trials for High Treaſon, which were not Freeholders.

And Exceſſive Bail hath been required of Perſons Committed in Criminal Caſes, to elude the Benefit of the Laws made for the Liberty of the Subjects.

And exceſſive Fines have been impoſed;

And illegal and cruel Puniſhments inflicted.

And ſeveral grants and promiſes made of Fines and Forfeitures, before any Conviction or Judgment againſt the Perſons, upon whom the ſame were to be Levyed.

All

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Laws and Statutes, and Freedom of this Realm.

And whereas the ſaid late King *James* the Second having Abdicated the Government, and the Throne being thereby Vacant,

His Highneſs the Prince of *Orange*, (whom it hath pleaſed Almighty God to make the Glorious Inſtrument of Delivering this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power) did (by the Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and divers Principal Perſons of the Commons) cauſe Letters to be written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, being Proteſtants; and other Letters to the ſeveral Counties, Cities, Univerſities, Boroughs, and Cinque-Ports, for the Chooſing of ſuch Perſons to Repreſent them, as were of Right to be ſent to Parliament, to meet and ſit at *Weſtminſter*, upon the Two and Twentieth day of *January*, in this Year One Thouſand Six Hundred Eighty and Eight, in order to ſuch an Eſtabliſhment, as that their Religion, Laws and Liberties might not again be in danger of being ſubverted: Upon which Letters Elections having been accordingly made,

And thereupon the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, purſuant to their reſpective Letters and Elections, being now aſſembled in a full and free Repreſentative of this Nation, taking into their moſt ſerious Conſideration the beſt Means for attaining the Ends aforeſaid; Do in the firſt place (as their Anceſtors in like Caſe have uſually done) for the

the Vindicating and Aſſerting their Ancient Rights and Liberties, Declare;

That the pretended Power of Suſpending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without Conſent of Parliament, is Illegal.

That the pretended Power of Diſpenſing with Laws, or the Execution of Laws, by Regal Authority, as it hath been Aſſumed and Exerciſed of late, is Illegal.

That the Commiſſion for Erecting the late Court of Commiſſioners for Eccleſiaſtical Cauſes, and all other Commiſſions and Courts of like nature, are Illegal and Pernicious.

That the Levying Money for, or to the Uſe of the Crown, by pretence of Prerogative, without Grant of Parliament, for longer time, or in other manner, then the ſame is or ſhall be granted, is Illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subjects to Petition the King, and all Commitments and Proſecutions for ſuch Petitioning, are Illegal.

That the raiſing or keeping a ſtanding Army within the Kingdom, in time of Peace, unleſs it be with Conſent of Parliament, is againſt Law.

That the Subjects which are Proteſtants, may have Arms for their Defence, ſuitable to their Conditions, and as allowed by Law.

That Election of Members of Parliament ought to be free.

That the Freedom of Speech, and Debates or Proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be impeached, or questioned in any Court or Place out of Parliament.

That Excessive Bail ought not to be required, nor excessive Fines imposed, nor Cruel and Unusual Punishments inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly Impannelled, and Returned, and Jurors which pass upon Men in Trials for High-Treason, ought to be Free-holders.

That all Grants and Promises of Fines and Forfeitures of particular Persons before Conviction, are Illegal and Void.

And that for Redress of all Grievances, and for the Amending, Strengthening, and Preserving of the Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

And they do Claim, Demand, and Insist upon all and singular the Premisses, as their Undoubted Rights and Liberties; and that no Declarations, Judgments, Doings, or Proceedings, to the Prejudice of the People in any of the said Premises, ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into Consequence or Example.

To.

To which Demand of their Rights, they are particularly Encouraged by the Declaration of His Highneſs the Prince of *Orange*, as being the only means for obtaining a full Redreſs and Remedy therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence, That his ſaid Highneſs the Prince of *Orange* will perfect the Deliverance ſo far advanced by him, and will ſtill preſerve them from the Violation of their Rights, which they have here Aſſerted, and from all other Attempts upon their Religion, Rights and Liberties.

The ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons Aſſembled at *Weſtminſter* do reſolve,

That *William and Mary* Prince and Princeſs of *Orange* be, and be Declared, King and Queen of *England*, *France* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, to hold the Crown and Royal Dignity of the ſaid Kingdoms and Dominions, to them the ſaid Prince and Princeſs, during their Lives, and the Life of the Survivor of them; And that the Sole and full Exerciſe of the Regal Power be only in, and executed by the ſaid Prince of *Orange*, in the Names of the ſaid Prince and Princeſs during their joint Lives; and after their Deceaſes, the ſaid Crown and Royal Dignity of the ſaid Kingdoms and Dominions to be to the Heirs of the Body of the ſaid Princeſs; And for default of ſuch Iſſue, to the Princeſs *Anne* of *Denmark*, and the Heirs of her Body; And for default of ſuch Iſſue to the Heirs of the Body of the ſaid Prince of *Orange*.

And

And the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do pray the ſaid Prince and Princeſs to accept the ſame accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mentioned be taken by all perſons of whom the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy might be required by Law, inſtead of them; And that the ſaid Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy be abrogated,

I *A. B.* Do ſincerely Promiſe and Swear, That I will be Faithful, and bear true Allegiance to their Majeſties, King *WILLIAM* and Queen *MARY*;

So help me God.

I *A. B.* Do ſwear, That I do from my Heart Abhor, Deteſt and Abjure, as Impious and Heretical this damnable Doctrine and Poſition, that Princes Excomunicated or Deprived by Pope, or any Authority of the See of *Rome*, may be Depoſed or Murdered by their Subjects, or any other whatſoever.

And I do Declare, That no Foreign Prince, Perſon, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath, or ought to have any Juriſdiction, Power, Superiority

riority, Preeminence or Authority, Eccleſiaſtical or Spiritual, within this Realm;

So help me God.

Upon which their ſaid Majeſties did Accept the Crown and Royal Dignity of the Kingdoms of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, according to the Reſolution and Deſire of the ſaid Lords and Commons, contained in the ſaid Declaration.

And thereupon Their Majeſties were pleaſed, That the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, being the Two Houſes of Parliament, ſhould continue to Sit, and with Their Majeſties Royal Concurrence make effectuall Proviſion for the Settlement of the Religion, Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom, ſo that the ſame for the future might not be in danger again of being Subverted; To which the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, did Agree and Proceed to Act accordingly.

Now in purſuance of the Premiſſes, the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Aſſembled, for the Ratifying, Confirming and Eſtabliſhing the ſaid Declaration, and the Articles, Clauſes, Matters and Things therein contained, by the Force of a Law made in due Form by Authority of Parliament, do Pray that it may be Declared and Enacted, That all and ſingular Rights and Liberties Aſſerted and Claimed

med in the ſaid Declaration, are the True, Ancient, and Indubitable Rights and Liberties of the People of this Kingdom, and ſo ſhall be Eſteemed, Allowed, Adjudged, Deemed and Taken to be; And that all and every the Particulars aforeſaid, ſhall be Firmly and Strictly Holden and Obſerved, as they are expreſſed in the ſaid Declaration; And all Officers and Miniſters whatſoever, ſhall *Serve* their Majeſties and Their Succeſſors according to the ſame in all times to come.

And the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, *Seriouſly* Conſidering how it hath pleaſed Almighty God, in his Marvellous Providence, and Merciful Goodneſs to this Nation, to provide and Preſerve Their ſaid Majeſties Royal Perſons moſt happily to Reign over us upon the Throne of Their Anceſtors, for which they render unto Him from the bottom of their Hearts their humbleſt Thanks and Praiſes, do Truly, Firmly, Aſſuredly, and in the Sincerity of their Hearts Think, and do hereby Recognize, Acknowledge and Declare, that King *James* the Second having Abdicated the Government, and Their Majeſties having Accepted the Crown and Royal Dignity, as aforeſaid, Their ſaid Majeſties did become, were, are, and of Right ought to be, by the Laws of this *Realm*, our Sovereign Leige Lord and Lady, King and Queen of *England*, *France* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, in and to whoſe Princely Perſons, the *Royal* State, Crown and Dignity of the ſaid *Realms*, with all Honours, Styles, Titles, *Regalities*, Prerogatives, Powers, Juriſdictions and Authorities to the ſame belonging and appertaining, are moſt Fully, Rightfully and Intirely Inveſted and Incorporated, United and Annexed.

And

And for preventing all Queſtions and Diviſions in this *Realm*, by reaſon of any pretended Titles to the Crown, and for Preſerving a Certainty in the Succeſſion thereof, in and upon which the Unity, Peace, Tranquility and Safety of this Nation doth under God, wholly Conſiſt and Depend, The ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do Beſeech their Majeſties, that it may be Enacted, Eſtabliſhed and Declared, That the Crown and *Regal* Government of the ſaid Kingdoms and Dominions, with all and Singular the Premiſſes thereunto belonging and appertaining, ſhall be and continue to their ſaid Majeſties, and the Survivor of Them, during Their Lives, and the Life of the Survivor of Them; And that the Entire, Perfect, and Full Exerciſe of the *Regal* Power and Government be only in, and executed by his Majeſty, in the Names of both Their Majeſties during Their joynt Lives; And after Their Deceaſes, the ſaid Crown and Premiſſes, ſhall be and remain to the Heirs of the Body of Her Majeſty; And for default of ſuch Iſſue, to Her *Royal* Highneſs the Princeſs ANNE of *Denmark*, and the Heirs of Her Body; And for default of ſuch Iſſue, to the Heirs of the Body of his ſaid Majeſty: And thereunto the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do in the Name of all the People aforeſaid, moſt Humbly and Faithfully Submit themſelves, their Heirs and Poſterities for ever; And do faithfully Promiſe, That they will Stand to Maintain, and Defend Their ſaid Majeſties; And alſo the Limitation and Succeſſion of the Crown herein ſpecified and contained to the utmoſt of their powers, with their *Lives* and Eſtates, againſt all Perſons whatſoever, that ſhall Attempt any thing to the contrary.

And

And whereas it hath been found by Experience, that it is inconſiſtent with the Safety and Welfare of this Proteſtant Kingdom, to be Governed by a Popiſh Prince, or by any *King* or Queen Marrying a *Papiſt*, the ſaid Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do further *Pray* that it may be Enacted, That all and every *Perſon* and *Perſons* that is, are, or, ſhall be Reconciled to, or ſhall hold Communion with the See or Church of *Rome*, or ſhall *Profeſs* the *Popiſh Religion*, or ſhall Marry a Papiſt, ſhall be Excluded, and be for ever uncapable to Inherit, *Poſſeſs*, or Enjoy the Crown and Government of this *Realm* and *Ireland*, and the *Dominions* thereunto belonging or any part of the ſame, or to Have, Uſe, or Exerciſe any Regal Power, Authority, or Juriſdiction within the ſame; And in all and every ſuch Caſe or Caſes, the People of theſe Realms ſhall be and are hereby Abſolved of their Allegiance; And the ſaid Crown and Government ſhall from time to time Deſcend to, and be Enjoyed by ſuch Perſon or Perſons, being Proteſtants, as ſhould have Inherited and Enjoyed the ſame, in Caſe the ſaid Perſon or Perſons ſo Reconciled, holding Communion,

munion, or Profeſſing, or Marrying as aforeſaid, were naturally Dead.

And that every King and Queen of this Realm, who at any time hereafter ſhall come to and ſucceed in the Imperial Crown of this Kingdom, ſhall on the firſt day of the meeting of the firſt Parliament, next after His or Her coming to the Crown, ſitting in His or Her Throne, in the Houſe of Peers, in the preſence of the Lords and Commons therein Aſſembled or at His or Her Coronation, before ſuch Perſon or Perſons who ſhall Adminiſter the Coronation Oath to him or Her, at the time of his or Her taking the ſaid Oath, (which ſhall firſt happen) Make, Subſcribe, and Audibly Repeat the Declaration mentioned in the Statute made in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, Entituled. *An Act for the more effectual Preſerving the Kings Perſon and Government, by diſabling Papiſts from ſitting in either Houſe of Parliament.*

But if it ſhall happen, that ſuch King or Queen upon His or Her Succeſſion to the Crown of this Realm, ſhall be under the Age of Twelve years, then every ſuch King or Queen ſhall Make, Subſcribe, and audibly Repeat the ſaid Declaration at His or Her Coronation, or the firſt day of the meeting of the firſt Parliament, as aforeſaid which ſhall firſt happen after ſuch King or Queen ſhall have attained the ſaid Age of Twelve Years.

All which their Majesties are contented and pleased shall be Declared, Enacted, and Established by Authority of this present Parliament, and shall stand, remain, and be the Law of this Realm for Ever; And the same are by Their said Majesties, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled and by the Authority of the same Declared, Enacted, and Established accordingly.

And be it further Declared, and Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after this present Session of Parliament, no Dispensation by *Non obstante* of or to any Statute, or any part thereof, shall be allowed, but that the same shall be held void and of no effect, Except a Dispensation be allowed of in such Statute; and except in such Cases as shall be specially provided for by one or more Bill or Bills to be passed during this present Session of Parliament.

Provided that no Charter, or Grant, or Pardon granted before the Three and twentieth day of *October*, in the Year of our Lord One thousand Six hundred eighty nine, shall be any ways Impeached or Invalidated by this Act, but that the same shall be and remain of the same force and effect in Law and no other than as if this Act had never been made.

FINIS